

Girl Scout Troop 31983 Launches Toy Drive

Submitted by Leslie DeWolf



Photo provided

Girl Scout troop 31983 of Lafayette has a wonderful tradition of allocating cookie profit from thousands of boxes of cookies sold over the years to purchase toys for needy boys and girls and then joining other helpful folks at Willow Spring Church of Moraga to wrap what has been collected.

This year, we have been told there are no toys in the Mission's storage so some of the girls in troop 31983 decided to do something to help. They will be buying toys this year but are also asking the community for help.

The good people at Handle Bar Toys have happily accepted a barrel to receive toys this year, through December 17.

If you feel blessed by living in this community and would like to bring a smile to a child this season, please stop by and pick something out. Thank you so much from Girl Scout Troop 31983!

Donations for Foster Children

Submitted by Val Cook-Watkins



Coldwell Banker manager Val Cook-Watkins and MaryAnn Hughes-Jones; Hughes-Jones and Dick Holt (not pictured) have spearheaded the Adopt and Angel program in the Orinda office for the past 15 years. Photo provided

gifts, for the past 15 years. The office has a culture of "giving back to the community" and participates in many other community outreach programs. This year Coldwell Banker Orinda's agents raised \$7000 for Habitat for Humanity and the sales associates and their clients participated in a Habitat "Build" in Oakland this past summer. They also created and raised money for The Spencer Neale Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Art which honored the late daughter of one of their colleagues by assisting two Campolindo High School graduating seniors in their college studies in the field of Art. December 6-10, Coldwell Banker is promoting it's Bay Area Food Bank Drive and will match donations up to \$10,000; the money will benefit the communities in which is collected.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate's Orinda office once again this year sponsored 60 "Angels" as part of the Contra Costa County Social Services' "Adopt an Angel" pro-

gram. The real estate office has participated in this program, which grants Christmas wishes for the county's foster children who otherwise might not receive any holiday



Santa's Bag Boutique

Santa's Bag Boutique with over 50 vendors is once again a very popular shopping destination in Lafayette. Complimentary homemade cookies and coffee greet shoppers as they enter the emporium of all things Christmas. From jewelry to clothes pin Christmas ornaments, scarves and more to the separate edible goodie room chock full of jams, spiced nuts and the very popular almond toffee covered in white chocolate. Lafayette residents Kelly Wood and Jenny Burford have been making this confection for the last ten years. They estimate they produce 1,000 pounds of it.

Lafayette residents Kelly Wood and Jenny Burford with attractive bags of their delicious almond toffee covered in white chocolate. Photo C. Tyson

Hospice Tree Lighting

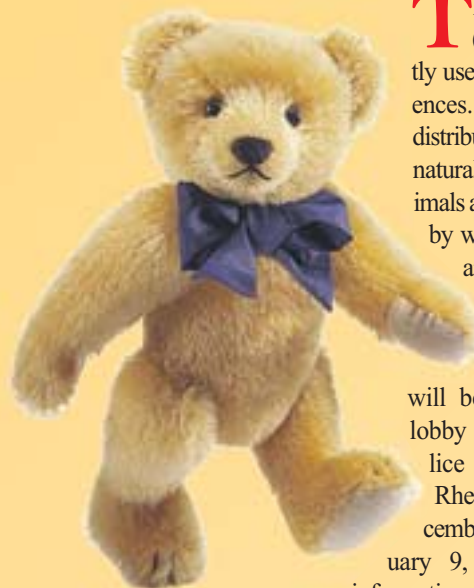


Orinda's Hospice tree was lit last weekend to the enjoyment of a large, dry crowd; while late rain did not deter people from the Hospice tree-lighting in Lafayette!

Photos Ohlen Alexander



Moraga Police Go Soft and Cuddly?



The Moraga Police Officers Association, along with S.A.F.E. (Stuffed Animals for Emergencies) is collection new or gently used stuffed animals to help children through traumatic experiences. The toys are given to local police and fire departments to distribute to children they encounter who have been affected by fires, natural disasters, or the loss of a loved one. Some of the donated animals are even distributed by our troops overseas to children affected by war and poverty. With your donation of new or used stuffed animals, the Moraga Police Officers Association and S.A.F.E. will make sure a child always has a hand to hold in a time of need.

Stuffed animals will be collected in the lobby of the Moraga Police Department, 329 Rheem Blvd, from December 1, 2010, thru January 9, 2011. For more information go to

www.MoragaPOA.com and <http://www.stuffedanimalsforemergencies.org/>. (Information submitted by Sergeant Brian South, President, Moraga Police Officers Association)

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Winter Clothing

On Saturday, December 11, 2010, Orinda Girl Scout troop 31143 will be collecting gently used winter clothing from 4-6pm near the fountain at Theater Square in Orinda. The girls will sort and distribute the clothing to Shelter, Inc, an organization that provides transitional housing and other services to homeless families in Contra Costa County.

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